

REMARKS

The specification of the subject U.S. patent application, as filed, as constituted by the verified translation of PCT/DE 03/00675, has been cancelled in favor of the concurrently filed Substitute Specification. A suitable Abstract Of The Disclosure has been added. These changes do not constitute any new matter.

Original claims 1-10, Article 19 claims 1-12, replacement claims 1-12, further replacement claims, also 1-12 and claims 1-7, have all been cancelled. New claims 13-28 have been added. New claims 13-28 are essentially the same, in scope, as the claims now pending in the PCT application. They have been rewritten more in a form in accordance with U.S. practice and eliminating multiple dependencies.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment into the file of the subject U.S. patent application, prior to an examination of the application on the merits, and prior to the calculation of the filing fee, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael HELD

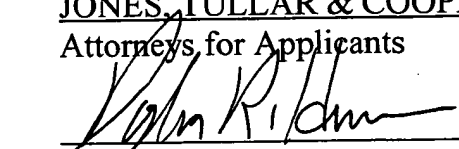
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MARKED-UP COPY OF SPECIFICATION

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[Specification]

Cutting Device

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] This patent application is the U.S. National Phase, under 35 USC 371, of PCT/DE 03/00675, filed February 28, 2003; published as WO 03/074401 A1 on September 12, 2003, and claiming priority to DE 102 09 214 filed March 4, 2002, the disclosures of which are expressly incorporated wherein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[002] The present invention is directed [relates] to a cutting device [in accordance with the preamble of claims 1, 2 or 6] the cutting device is used for the transverse cutting of a web of material. It includes a cutting and conveying cylinder, and a first counter cylinder.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[003] A typical [Such a] cutting device is employed, for example, for separating paper webs, which have been imprinted on a web-fed rotary printing press, into individual signatures.

[004] DE 26 17 000 C2 and AT 222 671 both show cylinders with cutters and spur devices. The cylinders act [which,] together with counter cylinders and [,] form a single cutting gap.

[005] DE 35 27 710 A1 discloses a folding apparatus. Two [, wherein two] folding blade cylinders act together with a folding jaw cylinder. Each folding blade cylinder is fed its own web.

[006] DE 239 837 C describes a cutting device for the transverse cutting of webs of material. A cutting and conveying cylinder cooperates with two counter-cylinders and forms respective cutting gaps.

[007] A folding apparatus is known from DE 34 04 170 A1. A cutting and conveying cylinder has a cutting blade and a web of material is looped around it.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[008] The object of the present invention is directed to [based on] providing a cutting device.

[009] In accordance with the present invention, this object is attained by the provision of a cutting device which is usable for the transverse cutting of at least a first web. A cutting and conveying cylinder and a counter cylinder can be rotated together and define a first cutting gap through which a first conveying path of the web of material extends. A second counter-cylinder may be used with the cutting and conveying cylinder and forms a second cutting gap. A second

web of material can also be cut. The cutting and conveying cylinder can be a folding blade cylinder or a collection cylinder [means of the characteristics of claims 1, 2 or 6].

[010] The advantages to be gained by [means of] the present invention lie, in particular, in that the re-cutting device removes the danger of cutting already separated signatures again during another passage of these already cut signatures through a cutting gap, without requiring elaborate displacement devices or an uncommonly great precision of the control of the rotations of the individual cylinders of the cutting device. Since the cutting cylinder in the cutting device in accordance with the present invention also takes on the function of a conveying cylinder for separated products, as long as a single signature is held on the cutting and [or] conveying cylinder, it is located between the two cutter blades by which it had been cut. During [, and it is sufficient that during] this time, the cutting blades and the signature do not move with [in] respect to each other, in order to assure that, during another passage through a cutting gap, the signature is not again cut.

[011] A spur strip, in particular, can be used as a holding device on the cutting and conveying cylinder. A counter-cylinder, which is required as a backstop for the cutting blades of the cutting cylinder during cutting, can then advantageously be equipped with at least one recess that is

adapted for receiving the spur needles which are supported on the spur strip.

[012] Another advantage of the cutting device in accordance with the present invention lies, in particular, in that it makes possible the joining of two webs of material, which two webs of material are fed to the conveying cylinder on two separate conveying paths, into a common product, or that it permits the processing of a very large number of layers of material by the joining together of two partial webs. In this way, it is possible to form [create] products having [with] a high number of pages, twice as fast as during collection operation and while [when] using a single cutting gap.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

[013] Preferred [Exemplary] embodiments of the present invention are represented in the drawings and will be described in greater detail in what follows.

Shown are in:

Fig. 1, a schematic side elevation [lateral] view of a folding apparatus with a cutting device in accordance with the present invention, in

Fig. 2, an enlarged depiction [representation] of a detail taken from Fig. 1, in

Fig. 3, a schematic representation of a first mode of operation, and in

Fig. 4, a schematic representation of a second [another] mode of operation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

[014] A schematic side elevation [lateral] view of a folding apparatus is represented in Fig. 1.

This folding apparatus has two web inlets 01, 02 for the receipt of multi-layered webs 03, 04 of material, in particular paper webs 03, 04, which multi-layer webs 03, 04 will be hereinafter identified as the inner web 03 or as the outer web [03,] 04 in what follows. Both webs 03, 04 pass through a respective [pair of] traction roller[s] pair 06, 07, respectively for setting their tension and both webs then encounter a cutting and conveying cylinder 11 [respectively] at the height of respective cutting gaps 08, 09. These gaps 08, 09 are formed between the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, on the one hand, and one of two counter-cylinders 12, 13 on the other hand. In place of two inlets 01, 02 and two cutting gaps 08, 09, it is also possible to provide three or more inlets and cutting gaps. In the course of this web travel, the webs 03, 04 preferably first come into contact with the respective counter- cylinder 12, 13 in each cutting gap 08, 09, respectively, and thereafter come into contact with the cutting and conveying cylinder 11. The [, i.e. the] webs thus first loop around the counter cylinder 12, 13 and then around the cutting and conveying cylinder 11.

[015] The circumference of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 corresponds to more than five, and preferably to seven lengths of the signature to be formed. This cylinder circumference [It] supports more than five, and preferably supports seven cutting blades that are evenly distributed over its circumference, which cutting blades are shown at 14 in Figs. 1 and 2, and a holding device 16, for example a spur strip 16, which is located closely behind each cutting blade 14 in its movement direction, which movement direction is a [(rotation in a counterclockwise direction, as shown in Fig. 1)]. Such a spur strip 16, which can be pivoted around a shaft 22 and which supports spur needles 23, is shown enlarged in Fig. 2 at the moment of its passage through the first cutting gap 08 at the point of cooperation with the first counter-cylinder 12.

[016] Each one of the identically constructed first and second counter-cylinders 12 or 13 has a circumference with a circumference length corresponding to at least one, and preferably to two lengths of the signatures to be produced from the webs 03, 04. Each counter-cylinder [It] supports at least one, and preferably supports two counter-cutting strips which are cut or inlaid into its circumferential surface. These strips may be, for example, hard rubber strips, which are used as backstops 15 for the cutting blades 14 when these cutting blades 15 are cutting the webs 03 or 04. A [, as well as a] groove 24 is located directly behind, or after, each backstop 15 in the movement

direction of the counter-cylinder 12 or 13 with each groove 24 being adapted for receiving the tips of the spur needles 23 of the spur strip 16 which tips of the spur needles 23 are, during their [the] passage through the cutting gap 08 or 09, [are] extended over the circumference of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11.

[017] In the position of the cutting device represented in Fig. 1, a cutting blade 14 of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 and a backstop 15 of the counter-cylinder 12 are just passing through the cutting gap 08 and, in the process, cooperate to cut the inner web 03. The leading edge of the inner web 03, which is formed [created] by this [the] cut, is spiked on the spur needles 23 of a spur strip 16, which spur strip 16 had been extended briefly prior to reaching the cutting gap 08 and which also fixedly hold the inner web leading edge [it] on the surface of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 during further conveying.

[018] The signature cut off the inner web 03 in this process [way] is conveyed on by [at] the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 to the second cutting gap 09, where the outer web 04 is placed on top of it, is also spiked by the spur needles 23 of the spur strip 16 and is cut by the same cutting blade 14. Since, between the passage of the signature cut from web 03 through the first cutting gap 08 and the passage through the second cutting gap 09, the cutting blades 14 and the spur strips

16 did not move in relation to the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, there is no danger that the signatures cut from the web 03 in the first cutting gap 08 are again cut during the passage through the second cutting gap 09.

[019] At the locations of the first and second cutting gaps 08 and 09, the tips of the spur needles 23, as may be seen in [(see) Fig. 2[]], extend farther past the circumference of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 than the cutting blades 14, in order to assure that the spur needle tips [they] have already been pushed through the web 03 or 04 before either of the webs 03 or 04 [latter] are cut by the cutting blade 14.

[020] In the example represented in Figs. 1 and 2 [here], the angular distance between the two cutting gaps 08, 09 is approximately 50°. This cutting gap angular distance can differ from the angular distance of the spur strips 16 from each other, which is typically [(51.5°)] or a multiple thereof, so that cutting is not performed simultaneously at both cutting gaps 08, 09. A [; a] half-integral multiple of this value is also disadvantageous from the viewpoint of vibration avoidance.

[021] Following its [the] passage through the second cutting gap 09, each spur strip 16 supports a whole product, which is [respectively] composed of signatures cut off the inner web 03 and of signatures cut off the outer web 04, respectively. Seven whole signatures or products are

formed [created] in the course of every revolution of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 in the same way as if both webs 03, 04 were fed via a common inlet in the customary way. However, since the cutting of each individual signature is spaced over [to] two separate cutting steps at the first and second gaps 08, 09, the force required to be provided in each cutting step is less. The result is that [,] a satisfactory synchronous running of the machine is easier to maintain and the demands made on the mechanical stress capability of the cutting device are also less than in case of feeding both webs 03, 04 through one common inlet.

[022] Furthermore, at least five, and preferable seven folding blades, which are not specifically represented, are attached to the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, each of which folding blades is extended when reaching a gap 17 between the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 and a folding jaw cylinder 18 in order to transfer the products conveyed by the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 to the folding jaw cylinder 18 in a manner that is known per se, and to thereby fold them. The folded products are then transferred from the folding jaw cylinder 18 to a bucket wheel 19 and are deposited by the bucket wheel [latter] on a conveyor belt 21.

[023] A [The] modified or second preferred embodiment of a [the] cutting device in accordance with the present invention differs from the one represented in Fig. 1 in that the second

embodiment [it] has only a single inlet 02 for a single web 04 to be cut. For its description, reference is again made to Fig. 1, wherein the first inlet 01, the inner web 03 and the first counter-cylinder 12 are now assumed not to exist.

[024] The web 04, fed in at the inlet 02 and having alternating patterns C and D, for example an imprinted web 04, as seen at the left in Fig. 3, meets the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 at the cutting gap 09, whose spur strips 18, when entering the cutting gap 09, alternately carry a previously cut off signature with the pattern C, which signatures was previously cut off the web 04, or no signature. Since the number of spur strips 16 is odd, at the cutting gap 09, an empty spur strip 16 respectively meets a pattern C of the web 04, and a spur strip 16 already equipped with a signature, with pattern C, meets a signature with the pattern D of the web 04. Since the cutting blades 16 are rigidly fastened on the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, and because the spur strips 16 do not move in relation to the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 between their [the] first passage through the cutting gap 09, where they are loaded with the signature with the pattern C, and their [the] second passage, where they receive D signatures, there is no danger that the signatures with the pattern C are again cut during the second passage through the cutting gap 09.

[025] Every time a spur strip 16, now equipped with the two sequentially collected signatures C

and D, passes through the gap 17, the total product obtained in this way is transferred, in a manner which is known per se, to the folding jaw cylinder 18.

[026] In all of the modes of operation, a further conveying cylinder, usable for taking over the signatures, can be connected downstream of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, instead of the folding jaw cylinder 18. A [, downstream of which a] folding jaw cylinder or a belt system can be arranged downstream of this further conveying cylinder.

[027] It is also possible for each of the webs 03, 04 to have the same patterns A or B located one behind the other, i.e. in the conveying direction, as depicted at the right in Fig. 3. Preferably these patterns A and B are imprinted by the use [means] of at least one forme cylinder of a printing unit, which at least one forme cylinder has two identical patterns A and B on its circumference. The webs 03, 04 are guided on top of each other, so that signatures with patterns A and B located on top of each other are formed [created], each of which web is transferred to the downstream located folding jaw cylinder 18 in the gap 17. The cutting and conveying cylinder 11 does not absolutely have to have an odd- numbered division, but instead can also have an even-numbered division, preferably greater than 4 or 6.

[028] Preferably, each of the patterns A, B, C, D identifies two newspaper pages, wherein A1,

A2, B1, B2, C1, C2, D1, D2 each identifies [identify] a newspaper page.

[029] The identification 03, 04 is understood to represent at least one web 03, 04, but preferably should be understood to be a representation of a strand consisting of several webs 03, 04 placed on top of each other.

[030] Here, the webs 03, 04 can each be imprinted by the use [means] of forme cylinders of printing units, which either have a pattern A or a pattern B on the circumference, which is a [(single circumference)], or two patterns A or B on the circumference, which is a [(double circumference)]. With double circumference forme cylinders, two identical patterns A, A, or B, B, or two different patterns A, B can be arranged on the circumference.

[031] Therefore, four modes of operation of the present invention are possible.

[032] In a first and a second mode of operation, both webs 03, 04 are brought together on the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 ahead of the first inlet 01, or the second inlet 02 and are severed in the course of a single cutting operation.

[033] In this case, in a first mode of operation the webs 03, 04 have identical patterns A or C in sequence, and the same products are formed sequentially on the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 during each revolution and are directly transferred to the downstream located folding jaw cylinder

18.

[034] In the [a] second mode of operation, the webs 03, 04 have patterns A, B or C, D, which alternate behind each other and which are alternately deposited on the cutting and conveying cylinder 11 during a first revolution of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, which is provided with an odd number of fields, and is thus a [(=] collection cylinder[)], and are additionally provided with a second layer of the folding product portion during the second revolution.

[035] In a third and fourth mode of operation, two webs 03, 04 are separately fed in, wherein in the third mode of operation the webs 03, 04 alternately bear the patterns A, B or C, D located one behind the other, as may be seen in Fig. 3.

[036] In this third mode [case], during a first revolution of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, acted as a [(=] collection cylinder[)], first signatures with the pattern A, C of each web 03, 04 are conducted on all and every second spur strip 16, so that now every second spur strip 16 carries a signature with the pattern A, C, and during the second revolution again two signatures with the pattern B, D from each web 03, 04 are conducted on the spur strips 16.

[037] Therefore, during the second revolution of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, signatures A, C, B, D on the spur strips 16 alternate with spur strips 16 carrying only signatures

with the patterns A, C, wherein the signatures, i.e. the product with the pattern A, B, C, D of each second field, are transferred to the folding jaw cylinder 18.

[038] In a fourth mode of operation, the webs 03, 04 each have identical patterns A, A, or C, C located behind each other, as seen in Fig. 4, so that, with each revolution of the cutting and conveying cylinder 11, each spur strip 16 carries signatures with the pattern A, C, which are directly transferred to the folding jaw cylinder 18 when they arrive there.

[039] While preferred embodiments of a cutting device, in accordance with the present invention, have been set forth fully and completely hereinabove, it will be apparent to one of skill in the art that various changes in, for example, the types of webs being printed on, the specific structure of the printing devices, and the like could be made without departing from the true spirit and scope of the subject invention which is accordingly to be limited only by the following claims.

[040] WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

[List of Reference Symbols

- 01 Inlet
- 02 Inlet
- 03 Web of material, paper web, inner web
- 04 Web of material, paper web, outer web
- 05 -
- 06 Traction roller pair
- 07 Traction roller pair
- 08 Cutting gap
- 09 Cutting gap
- 10 -
- 11 Cutting and conveying cylinder
- 12 Counter-cylinder
- 13 Counter-cylinder]

[14 Cutting blade

15 Backstop

16 Holding device, spur strip

17 Gap

18 Folding jaw cylinder

19 Bucket wheel

20 -

21 Conveyor belt

22 Shaft

23 Spur needles

24 Groove

A Pattern, signature with pattern, product with
pattern

B Pattern, signature with pattern, product with
pattern]

[C Pattern, signature with pattern, product with

pattern

D Pattern, signature with pattern, product with

pattern]